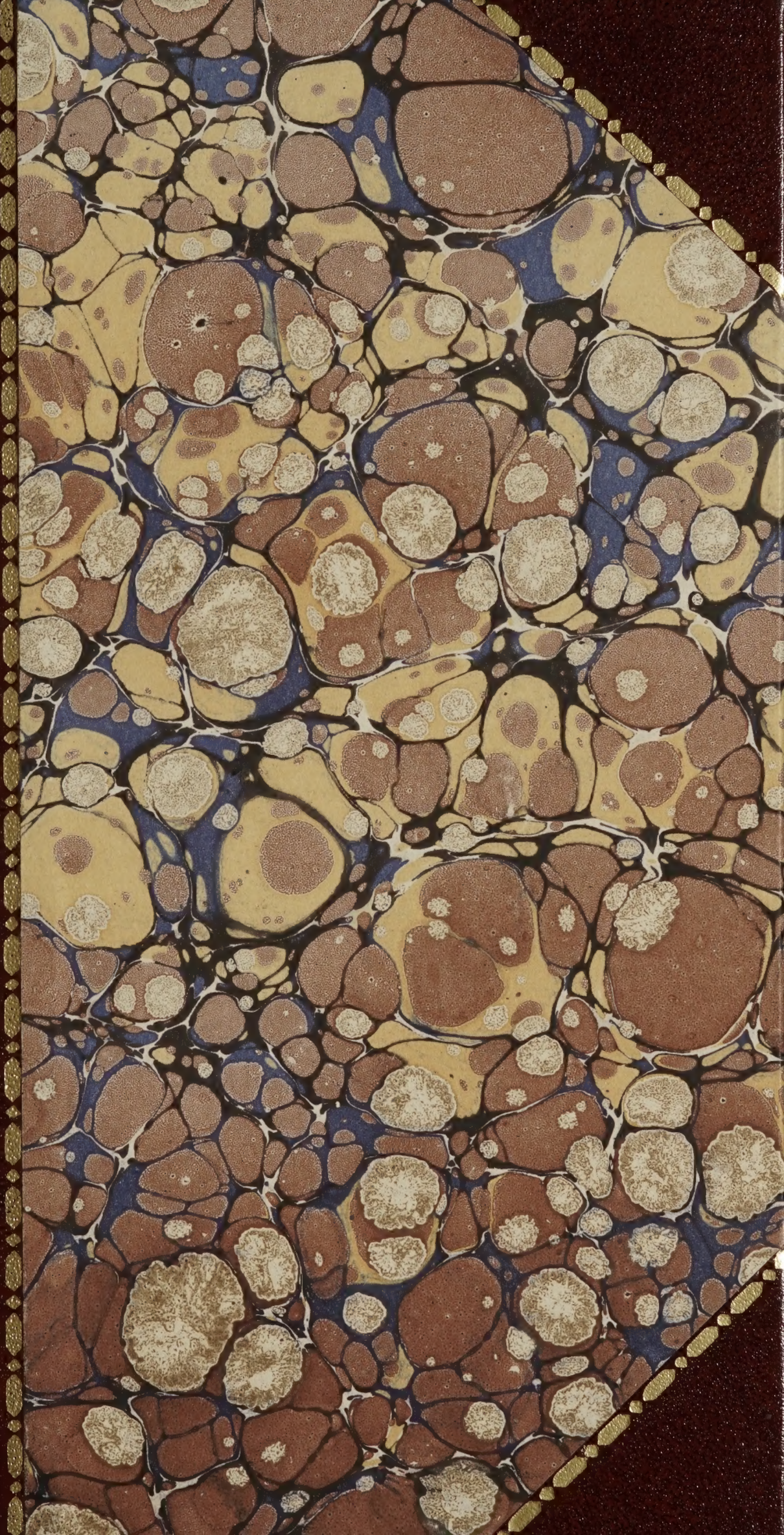

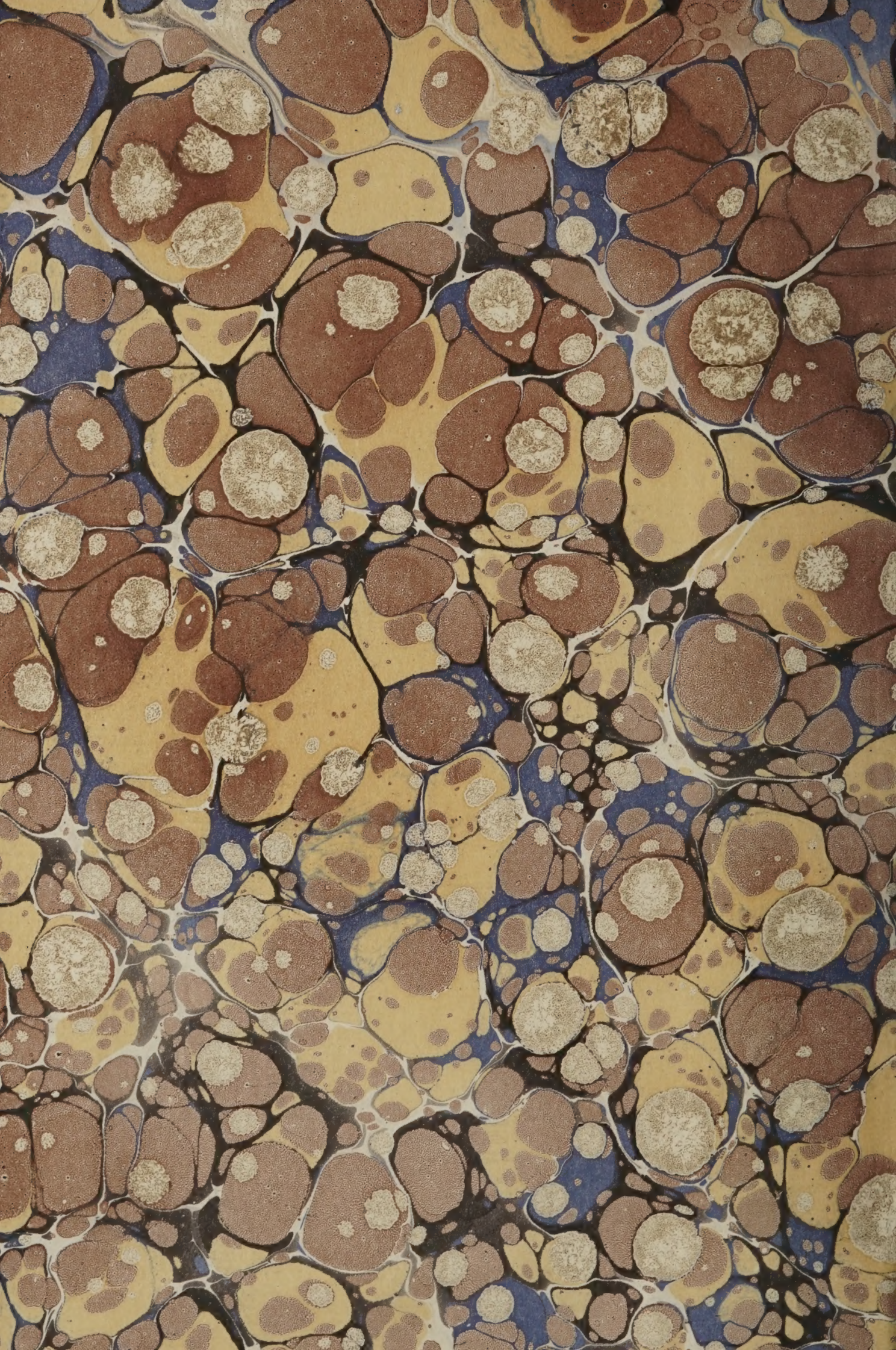

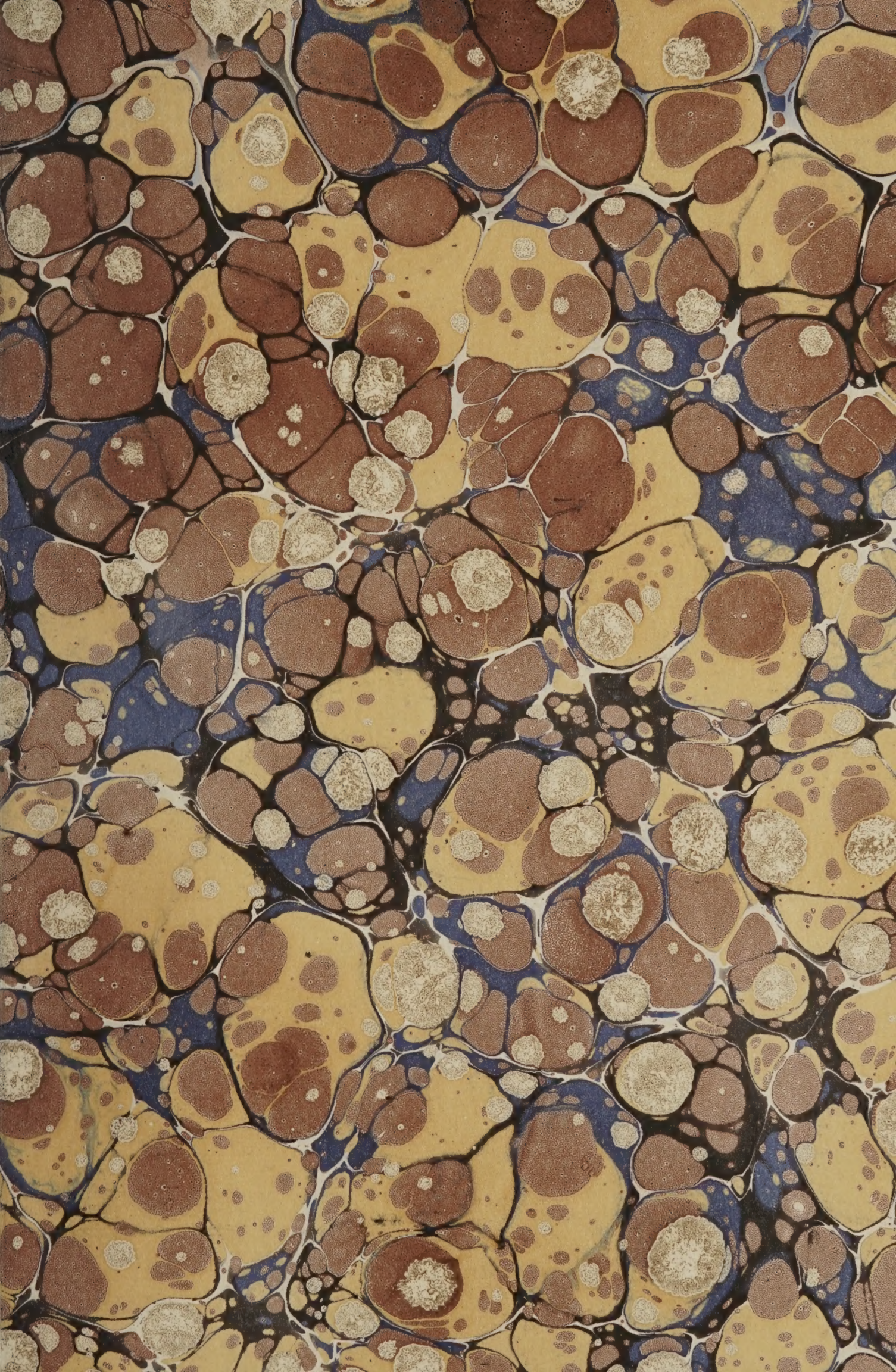

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J. A. BOLEN'S

MEDALS, CARDS, AND FAC-SIMILES.

AN ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF BOLEN'S WORKS, WITH NUMBER STRUCK IN EACH METAL, DISPOSITION OF DIES, AND OTHER DETAIL.

BY EDWIN L. JOHNSON.

Non numero hæc judicantur, sed pondere.

NUMISMATIC PRINTING AND BINDING COMPANY,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
1882.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1882,
By EDWIN L. JOHNSON,
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

Bolen's Medals, Cards, and Fac-similes.

1. Base Ball Medal.
2. Fac-simile U. S. Bar Cent.
3. Arsenal Medal. A. Arsenal with sun.
4. Arsenal Medal. B. Without sun.
5. Bolen's Card. A. 1862. Boy on eagle.
6. Washington Medal. A. "Avoid the extremes," etc.
7. Fac-simile Confederatio Cent. A. Large stars.
8. Fac-simile Confederatio Cent. B. Small stars.
9. Bolen's Card. B. 1864. Liberty cap.
10. Bolen's Card. C. 1864. Liberty cap and sunburst.
11. Fac-simile Higley, or Granby, Cent.
12. Washington Medal. B. Washington's Letter to Hamilton.
13. Bolen's Card. D. 1864. "Stamp cutter," &c.
14. Washington Medal. C. "He lived for his country."
15. Washington Medal. D. "The father of our country."
16. Washington Medal. E. "Copper from wreck of Congress," &c.
17. Ordnance Department Medal, or Tag.
18. Soldiers' Fair Medal.
19. Bolen's Card. E. 1865.
20. Bolen's Card. F. 1865. Reversed legend.
21. Bolen's Card. G. 1865. "Die Sinker," &c.
22. Lincoln Medal. A. "With malice toward none," &c.
23. Moore Bros.' Card.
24. Massachusetts Token. Eagle on shield, 1866.
25. Springfield Token. "Springfield Antiquarians."
26. Bolen's Card. H. 1867.

27. Washington Medal. F. "1st President," &c.
28. Jefferson Medal. "3rd President," &c.
29. Jackson Medal. "7th President," &c.
30. Lincoln Medal. B. "16th President," &c.
31. Webster Medal.
32. Bolen's "Libertas Americana" Card. I.
33. Bolen's Card. J. 1867. "Bolen" under bust.
34. Lincoln Medal. C. "Copper taken from Merrimac," &c.
35. Grant Medal.
36. Fac-simile Carolina Elephant Cent.
37. Double Carolina Elephant.
38. Bolen's Card. K. 1869.
39. Fac-simile New York Cent. "Neo Eboracus."
40. Fac-simile George Clinton Cent.
41. Copper Plate. Impressions of four fac-similes.
42. Masonic Temple Medal.
43. Fort Pynchon Medal.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE.

1. Base Ball Medal. 20.

Obv.—Boy in act of batting ball. Leg.—at top,—"Pioneer Base Ball Club." 13 stars below. "J. A. Bolen."

Rev.—Clubs and balls. Leg.—"Organized April 30, 1858. Play-ground on Hampden Park, Springfield, Mass."

Dies cut in 1861 for Chas. E. Vinton, who still retains them.

75 copper, 125 w. m.

2. Fac-simile U. S. Bar Cent. 16.

Obv.—"U. S. A." in monogram.

Rev.—13 bars.

Dies cut in 1862, and sold to W. E. Woodward, who destroyed them after striking 12 in silver.

65 copper.

3. Arsenal Medal. A. 18.

Obv.—Arsenal building, with sun above to left. Leg.—below,—"U. S. Arsenal." "J. A. Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"U. S. Armory. Established by Act of Congress in April, 1794. Springfield, Mass."

Dies cut in 1862, and sold to Geo. B. Mason, Brooklyn, N. Y.

5 copper.*

Note.—The obverse die was rejected as incorrect, and replaced by obverse of No. 4. The "sun above arsenal" was an interpolation after the error in the die was discovered.

---

* I can only give the number struck by Mr. Bolen. All efforts to learn anything regarding the issues of later owners of dies have been in vain; but I believe that restrikes of his pieces are very few, while mules other than his are common. I would be glad to receive any information further than I possess.

4. Arsenal Medal. B. 18.

Obv.—Similar to No. 3, but without sun, and legend in smaller letters.

Rev.—Same as No. 3.

Cut in 1862, and sold to Geo. B. Mason, Brooklyn, N. Y.

2 silver, 75 copper, 75 brass.

5. Bolen's Card. A. 18.

Obv.—Boy on eagle. 13 stars in a dotted border. Leg.—"Young America, 1862."

Rev.—Leg.—"J. A. Bolen, Die-sinker and Medalist, Springfield, Mass."

Cut in 1862. Sold to Geo. B. Mason, Brooklyn, N. Y.

75 copper, 75 brass.

6. Washington Medal. A. 18.

Obv.—Head of Washington to left. Leg.—"George Washington." "J. A. Bolen."

Rev.—Oak wreath. Leg.—"Avoid the extremes of party spirit." Very thick planchet.

Cut in 1862. Dies destroyed.

6 silver, 75 oreide.

7. Fac-simile of Confederatio Cent. A. 18.

Obv.—Indian standing by altar, holding bow and arrows, and with his right foot resting on a crown. Leg.—"Inimica tyrannis Americana."

Rev.—13 stars in sunburst. Leg.—"Confederatio, 1785."

Cut in 1863. Dies destroyed.

2 silver, 40 copper.

Note.—One copy in silver was sold to W. E. Woodward; the other to the late James Parker, of Springfield, Mass.

8. Fac-simile of Confederatio Cent. B. 18.

Similar to No. 7, but with smaller stars and rays on reverse.

Cut in 1863. Dies destroyed.

2 silver, 40 copper.

9. Bolen's Card. B. 18.

Obv.—Head of Bolen to left. Star each side. Leg.—"J. A. Bolen, 1864."

Rev.—Liberty cap. Leg.—"United States of America. Liberty."

Cut in 1864.

3 lead.

10. Bolen's Card. C. 18.

Same as No. 9, but with sunburst surrounding liberty cap on reverse.

Cut in 1864, and destroyed. All obtainable copies were recalled and destroyed.

25 oreide.

11. Fac-simile of Higley, or Granby, Cent. 18.

Obv.—Stag facing left. Hand below. Leg.—"The valve of three pence."

Rev.—Three hammers crowned. Leg.—"Connecticut, 1737." Star below at left of date.

Cut in 1864. Defaced and sold to Dr. F. S. Edwards of New York.

2 silver, 40 copper.

Note.—The dies must have been restored, for I have seen this piece in nickel.

12. Washington Medal. B. 37.

Obv.—Bust of Washington to left. Leg.—"George Washington." "J. A. Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"I hope that liberal allowance will be made for the political opinions of each other; without these I do not see how the reins of government are to be managed, or how the union of the States can be much longer preserved."

"Washington's Letter to Hamilton."

Dies cut in 1864, and sold to Dr. F. S. Edwards of New York. (Now useless).

5 silver, 10 copper, 14 w. m. (By Dr. Edwards.)

13. Bolen's Card. D. 18.

Obv.—Similar to No. 9, but with smaller date, and knerled.

Rev.—Leg.—"Stamp cutter, die sinker and medallist. Springfield, Mass."

Cut in 1864. Obverse die and all obtainable copies destroyed.

25 copper.

14. Washington Medal. C. 18.

Obv.—Head of Washington to left. Leg.—"Washington." "J. A. Bolen."

Rev.—Laurel wreath. Leg.—"He lived for his country."

Dies cut in 1864, and sold to A. R. McCoy, New York.

5 copper.

15. Washington Medal. D. 18.

Obv.—Head of No. 14. Leg.—"The father of our country." "J. A. Bolen."

Rev.—Same as No. 14.

Cut in 1864, and sold to A. R. McCoy, New York.

2 copper. (By Bolen.)

16. Washington Medal. E. 18.

Obv.—Same as No. 14.

Rev.—Leg.—"A piece of copper bolt taken from the wreck of Frigate Congress, by Surgeon J. M. Rice, 25th Mass. Vols. Only two struck.

Reverse die cut in 1864, and destroyed.

2 copper.

17. Medal, intended for use in the Ordnance Department, Washington. 25.

Obv.—Belt inscribed "Standard." Two cannon crossed, bomb-shell and flame.

Rev.—Blank.

Cut in 1864.

6 lead.

18. Soldiers' Fair Medal. 18.

Obv.—Same as No. 14.

Rev.—Laurel wreath. Leg.—"Soldiers' Fair, December, 1864. Springfield, Mass."

Reverse die cut in 1864, and sold to A. R. McCoy, New York.

2 copper, 350 w. m.

19. Bolen's Card. E. 18.

Obv.—Head of Bolen to left. Leg.—"J. A. Bolen, 1865."

Rev.—Same as No. 13.

Cut in 1865. Dies and all obtainable impressions destroyed.

10 copper, 10 w. m.

20. Bolen's Card. F. 18.

Obv.—Head of No. 19. Leg.—"TWO STRUCK AND DIE DESTROYED"

Rev.—Same as No. 13.

Obverse cut in 1865, but proved incorrect. Both dies destroyed.

2 copper.

21. Bolen's Card. G. 18.

Obv.—Head of Bolen to left. Leg.—"J. A. Bolen, 1865."

Rev.—Laurel wreath. Leg.—"Die sinker, &c. Springfield, Mass." Small "B" under Mass.

Cut in 1865, and destroyed with all obtainable impressions.

50 oreide, 50 w. m.

22. Lincoln Medal. A. 16.

Obv.—Head of Lincoln to right. Leg.—"Abraham Lincoln." "J. A. Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"With malice toward none; with charity for all."

Cut in 1865. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

5 silver, 10 copper, 40 brass.

23. Moore Bros' Card. 18.

Obv.—Leg.—"Moore Brothers, Photographic Artists, opposite Court Square, Springfield, Mass."

Rev.—Leg.—"Photographs made and finished in any desired style or size."

Cut in 1865, for Moore Brothers.

5 copper, 1 brass, 400 w. m.

24. Massachusetts Token. 18.

Obv.—Eagle on shield. Leg.—"Massachusetts, 1866." "Bolen."

Rev.—Wreath and seven stars. Leg.—"Lexington, April 19, 1775. Baltimore, April 19, 1861."

Cut in 1866. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 14 copper, 1 brass, 1 w. m.

25. Springfield Token. 18.

Obv.—Same as No. 24.

Rev.—Leg.—"Springfield Antiquarians: James Parker, Wm. H. Bowdoin, C. B. Newell, J. A. Bolen, J. Whitcomb, D. K. Lee, Wm. Clogston."

Cut in 1866. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 14 copper, 1 brass, 1 w. m.

26. Bolen's Card. H. 18.

Obv.—Head of Bolen to left. Leg.—"J. A. Bolen, 1867."

Rev.—Same as No. 21.

Cut in 1867.

14 copper, 1 brass, 1 w. m.

27. Washington Medal. F. 16. Presidential Series.

Obv.—Head of Washington to right. Leg.—"Washington." "Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"George Washington, 1st President U. S. The Union is the main prop of our liberty."

Cut in 1867. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 16 copper, 1 brass, 3 w. m.

28. Jefferson Medal. 16. Presidential Series.

Obv.—Head of Jefferson to right. Leg.—"Jefferson." "Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President U. S. Equal and exact justice to all men."

Cut in 1867. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 14 copper, 14 brass.

29. Jackson Medal. 16. Presidential Series.

Obv.—Head of Jackson to right. Leg.—"Jackson." "Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"Andrew Jackson, 7th President U. S. The stern old soldier, a foe to traitors."

Cut in 1867. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 14 copper, 14 brass.

30. Lincoln Medal. B. 16. Presidential Series.

Obv.—Head of Lincoln to right. Leg.—"Lincoln." "Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"Abraham Lincoln, 16th President U. S. Emancipation the great event of the 19th century."

Cut in 1867. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 14 copper, 14 brass.

31. Webster Medal. 16.

Obv.—Head of Webster to right. Leg.—"Webster." "Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"Daniel Webster, the able defender of the Constitution."

Cut in 1867, and sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 14 copper, 14 brass.

32. Bolen's "Libertas Americana" Card. I. 16.

Obv.—Fac-simile of Libertas Americana obverse. Head to left, with flowing hair, and liberty cap over right shoulder. Leg.—"Libertas Americana. 4 Juil, 1776," in exergue. "Bolen" under bust.

Rev.—Obverse of No. 26.

Obverse die cut in 1867, and sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

1 silver, 16 copper, 1 brass, 3 w. m.

33. Bolen's Card. J. 16.

Obv.—Head of Bolen to left. Leg.—"J. A. Bolen, 1867." "Bolen" under bust.

Rev.—Same as No. 21.

Cut in 1867, and obverse die destroyed.

1 silver, 15 copper, 15 brass, 15 w. m.

Note.—This is the *only* Bolen Card with his name under the bust, or elsewhere, save in the legend. The 1865 card (No. 21) and other pieces later have a small B on reverse.

34. Lincoln Medal. C. 16.

Obv.—Same as No. 30.

Rev.—Leg.—"A piece of copper taken from the wreck of the Rebel ram Merrimac, in 1862, by J. D. Pratt, A. A. Surgeon U. S. A. Only ten struck."

Reverse die cut in 1868, and destroyed.

10 copper.

35. Grant Medal. 16. Presidential Series.

Obv.—Head of Grant to right. Leg.—"Grant." "Bolen."

Rev.—Leg.—"Gen. U. S. Grant, our next President. May he in wisdom rule the country he has saved."

Cut in 1868. Sold in 1872 to J. W. Kline, Philadelphia.

2 silver, 14 copper, 14 brass, 1 w. m.

36. Fac-simile Carolina Elephant Cent. 17.

Obv.—Elephant to left.

Rev.—Leg.—"God preserve Carolina and the Lords Proprietors. 1694."

Cut in 1869. Canceled.

2 silver, 40 copper, 5 brass.

37. Double Carolina Elephant. 17.

Obv.—Same as No. 36.

Rev.—Elephant to left. Leg.—"Only ten struck."

Cut in 1869. Canceled.

10 copper.

"The reverse of No. 37 was originally cut for the obverse of No. 36; but as it was not correct, I cut another. After striking the 47 pieces of No. 36, I struck two mules in copper from the two obverse dies, and then annealed incorrect die, lettered it "Only ten struck," and struck the ten copies of No. 37; making twelve in all with the elephant on both sides."—*J. A. Bolen.*

38. Bolen's Card. K. 16.

Obv.—Head of Bolen to left. Leg.—"J. A. Bolen, 1869." Similar to No. 33, but with different kneel.

Rev.—Same as No. 21.

Cut in 1869.

1 silver, 28 copper, 20 brass, 50 w. m.

Note.—This is Bolen's last card, and bears the most correct likeness.

39. Fac-simile N. Y. Cent. 17.

Obv.—Indian with bow in left hand and tomahawk in right. Leg.—"Libernatus libertatem defendo." Star below.

Rev.—Eagle on hemisphere. Leg.—"Neo Eboracus. 1787. Excelsior."

Cut in 1869. Canceled.

2 silver, 40 copper, 5 brass.

40. Fac-simile George Clinton Cent. 17.

Obv.—Head of Clinton to right. Leg.—"George * Clinton *"

Rev.—Arms of the State of New York, with the legend, "Excelsior. 1787" beneath.

Cut in 1869. Canceled.

2 silver, 40 copper, 5 brass.

41. Copper Plate, 2¾ inches square, with four impressions from fac-simile dies on each side, viz: One of No. 39, two of No. 40, and one mule.

Inscribed "J. A. Bolen, 1869. Only two struck."

2 copper.

NOTE 1.—Mr. Bolen retains one of these; the other was owned by the late James Parker, of Springfield.

NOTE 2.—After these were struck, the dies of numbers 36, 37, 39 and 40 were canceled, and presented to the Numismatic Society, of Boston.

42. Masonic Medal. 18.

OBV.—Front of Masonic Temple. Leg.—"Masonic Temple." "Bolen."

REV.—Large six-pointed open star, or double triangle, square and compasses enclosing G, and two swords crossed. Leg.—"Dedicated June 24, 1874, Springfield, Mass."

Cut in 1874, for G. D. Rollins. Struck by Lovett. Obverse die broken, and both now owned by Mr. Rollins.

5 silver, 5 copper, 5 brass, 100 w. m.

43. Fort Pynchon Medal. 16.

OBV.—Old Pynchon House, or Fort Pynchon. "Bolen."

REV.—Leg.—in seven lines.—"The Pynchon House, Springfield, Mass., called the Old Fort. Built by John Pynchon, in 1660. Taken down in 1831."

Cut in 1881.

Bolen's Mules.

	Obverse.	Reverse.	
I.	Rev. of 7.	Rev. 8.	2 copper.
II.	Obv. of 32.	" 21.	2 silver.
III.	" " "	Obv. 22.	5 copper.
IV.	" " "	" 27.	" "
V.	" " "	" 28.	" "
VI.	" " "	" 29.	" "
VII.	" " "	" 30.	" "
VIII.	" " 22.	" 30.	" "
IX.	" " 27.	" 28.	" "
X.	" " "	" 30.	" "
XI.	" " 36.	" 37.	2 "
XII.	" " 39.	Rev. 40.	2 silver, 40 copper, 5 brass.
XIII.	Rev. " 39.	" "	5 copper.
XIV.	Obv. " 40.	" 39.	" "
XV.	" " "	Obv. "	" "

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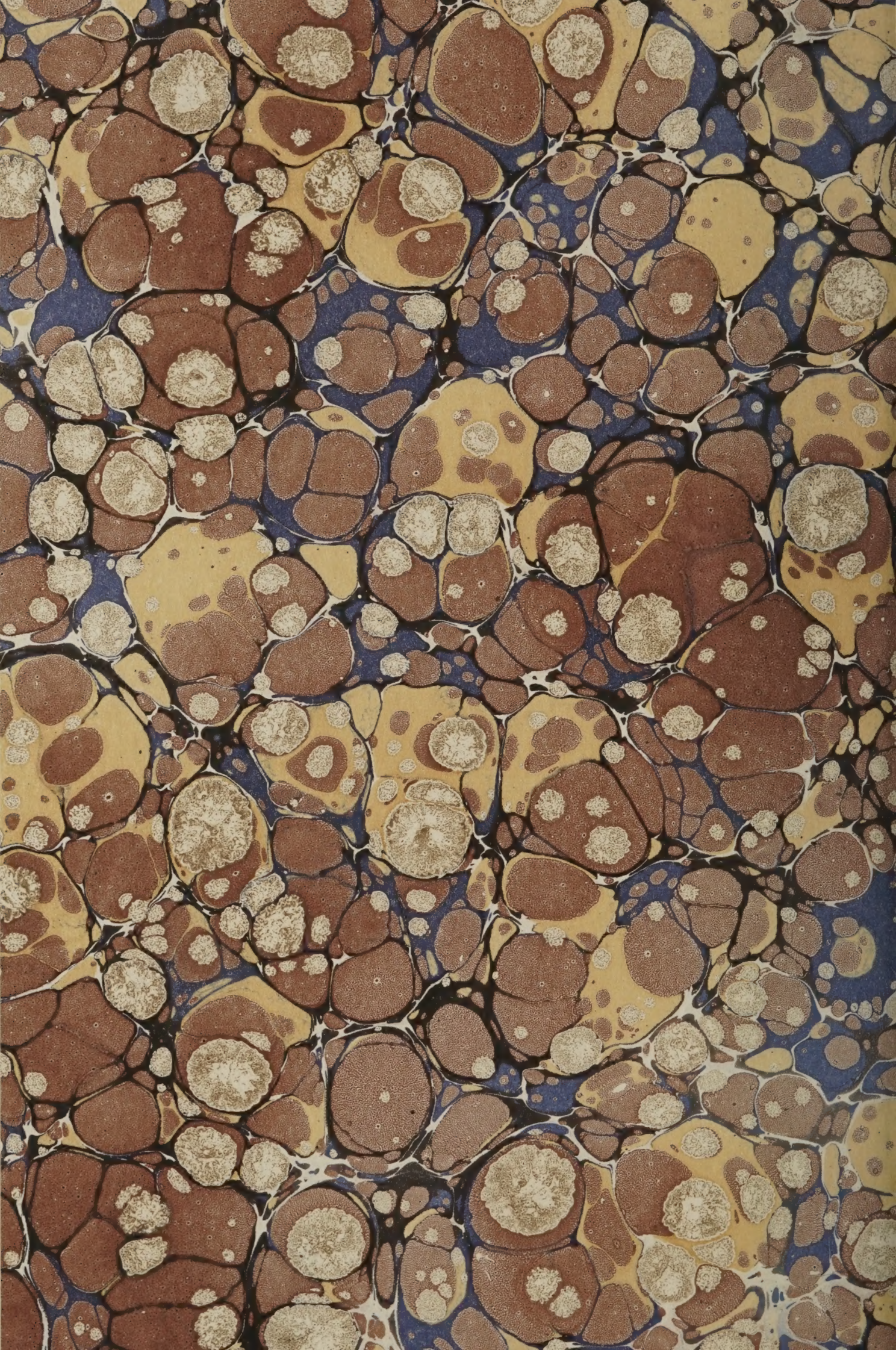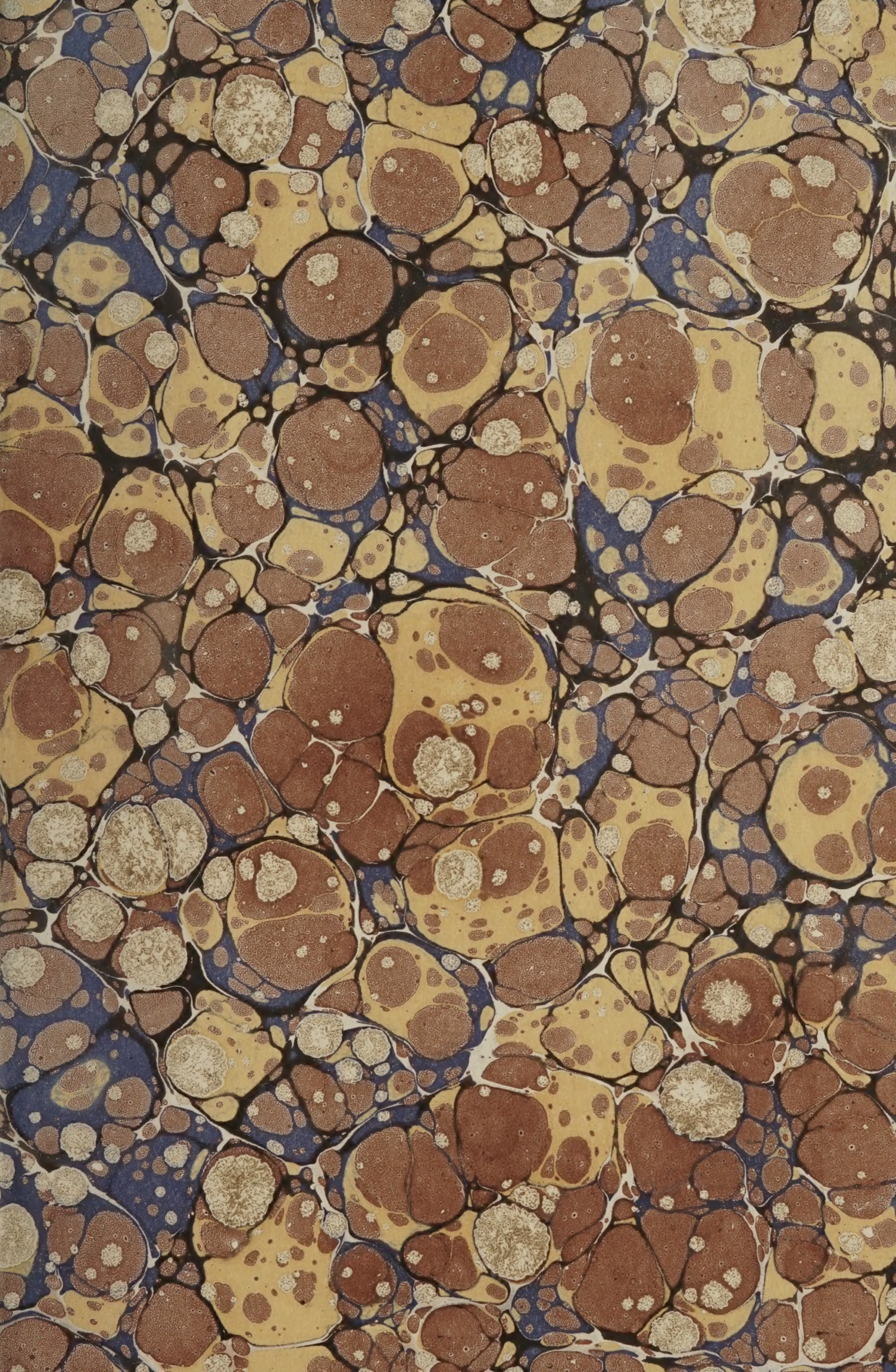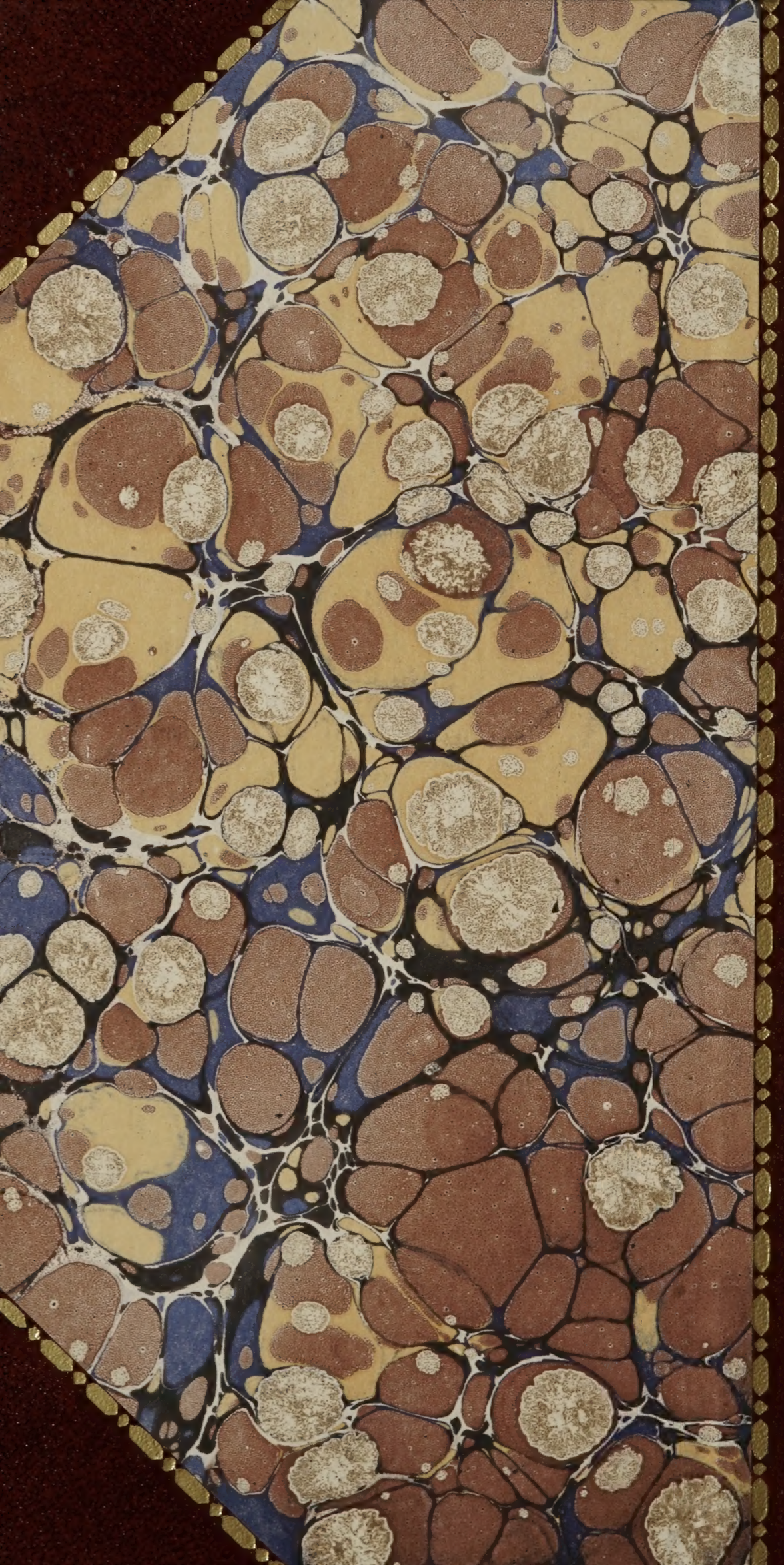
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